

# MCFRS Blazing Glory



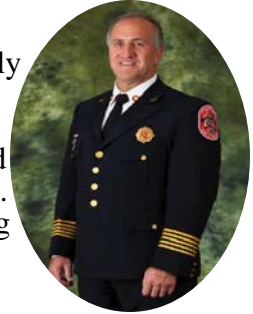
**Office of the Fire Chief - Fire Chief Richie Bowers**

**Summer 2009 - Edition 4**

## EXPECTATIONS - TRAIN, TRAIN, TRAIN

Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Nice, Work Together, and Execute the Basics Perfectly

Chief Bowers' first few months as the second Fire Chief of Montgomery County have seen Safety Collision meetings, a Safety Stand Down, and Organizational and Officer meetings. He's hit the floor running and there's no sign he's slowing down. As a matter of fact, he's just warming up. With the "slow" summer months coming to an end (is there such a thing as "slow" in Fire and Rescue?), Chief Bowers turns his sights on the FY11 Operating budget and restructuring MCFRS.



Effective August 10th, the Office of the Fire Chief (OFC) consists of the Executive Officer, (Assistant Chief), Senior Executive Administrative Aide, Public Information Office, and the Budget and Grants Section, in addition to Policy Development. Battalion Chief Kevin Frazier has been assigned to the OFC to handle the MCFRS Collision Reduction and Awareness Special Project.

The Department managed to stay within its Operating and Personnel budgets for FY09 thanks to everyone's efforts in reducing spending by following our current purchase process.

The Senator Amoss "508" Grant was approved by County Council in July, 2009, in the amount of \$1,338,845. The Local Fire Rescue Departments (LFRDs) will receive their disbursements in August, 2009.

Work on the FY11 Operating budget has begun, and the Department's submission to OMB will be due by late November or early December. The County Executive will finalize his budget by next February, and the County Council will review and make its changes in the spring. The FY11 budget will be even more challenging than the FY10 budget, and we anticipate possible reductions.

For those of you who have been living in a cave ~ meet Beth Anne Nesselt (hanging out with Officer McGruff). Beth Anne is the Program Manager for Risk Watch and is currently serving double duty working in the Public Information Office with Assistant Chief Scott Graham and Captain Oscar Garcia.



Hey Beth Anne - Sparky's going to get jealous.

# Division of Operations



The Operations Division continues to work steadily to correct structural issues that will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our day-to-day operations and scheduling needs. Chief Reid is fully engaged with the Blue Ribbon Safe Structural Fire Fighting workgroup that has been tasked to review our significant incident investigative reports and recommend needed changes to the organization. Their report is due on September 15th and we look forward to reviewing their recommendations that will frame any changes in policy and procedure as we continue to evolve.

I would like to recognize the efforts of the various crews involved in some highly challenging incidents that occurred this quarter. Among the more challenging fires:

Arizona Circle (residential townhome) with two civilian fire deaths; Lorraine Avenue (single family dwelling); Crabbs Branch Way (townhouse office suite); and Piney Branch Road (high rise residential). I am also pleased to report that we have had a number of great EMS saves, most notably an infant code (E-722, A-729, and EMS-703); at least two AED saves; an adult jogger (M-725 and E-725); and an elderly male who was successfully defibrillated using a public access defibrillator, and then resuscitated by E-706 and M-741. It is so easy for all of us to focus on day-to-day issues that we no longer see or celebrate these tremendous satisfying results. Please know that I am very proud of the good work that you perform every day. Please take the time to acknowledge the assistance provided by all the other support personnel (ECC, Training, EMS, etc.) who contribute to your efforts.

Chief Ridgely and the scheduling staff have been busy initiating changes in our scheduling platform. Effective July 19, 2009, the mandatory overtime hours at Rescue 1, Rescue 2, and Station 5 were reduced as part of the FY2010 cost savings plan. Please remember to check Telestaff for your work hours when you are assigned to one of these stations. Effective August 2, 2009, the medic rotation that was in place to support Stations 6, 17, 18, 19, and 22 ended. A firefighter medic was assigned to each shift at Stations 6, 16, 18, 19, and 22 to maintain shift continuity and to minimize the unnecessary detailing of personnel. More changes are on the near horizon to more effectively manage the medic riding time requirements and maximize the efficiencies of the one-plus-one medic initiative, so stay tuned. Finally, Telestaff has been adjusted to guarantee a Tanker Driver at Stations 4 and 30, which again minimizes unnecessary detailing of personnel.

Battalion 3 and 5 Chiefs are working with the ECC and LFRDs to provide clear expectations regarding the intended use, dispatch, and response of our all-wheel drive assets. Formal direction will be forthcoming.

Chief Goldstein continues to work through issues with each of the Special Ops teams to correct structural staffing issues and assure that all of the personnel assigned to the consolidated and non-consolidated stations are properly trained and certified. Minimum staffing changes have been initiated at Stations 10 and 30. The Division is evaluating our current haz-mat response platform now. My special thanks to each of you who have worked together to bring successful outcomes to a variety of "special events." These include the Tiger Woods AT&T Golf tournament, and staffing the events at the polo grounds, the Germantown Soccer Plex, and the Montgomery County Fair.

Chief McAdams and his EMS staff have been very successful in pursuing regional Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funds to enhance our mass-casualty capabilities, not only in Montgomery County, but throughout the MWCOC region. This involves tremendous efforts and logistics that strain an already busy Section.

Fifty-four candidates have successfully passed the written exams for ECC's civilian call-taker positions and will begin the interview process this month, anticipating a November class start for mandatory training. A number of Fire Chief's General Orders are being routed through Notice and Opportunity to continue our effort toward reducing the processing times for all call types. I have also charged ECC to evaluate the process for full assignment dispatch and operations on the tactical talk groups. This is integral to the Blue Ribbon Safe Structural panel initiatives that are also forthcoming.

The long-awaited County-wide defect reporting system has been successfully piloted in Battalion 3. The FCGO to implement this pilot program County-wide is also being routed through Notice and Opportunity. And, last but not least, I appreciate the noticeable improvement in your professional appearance as you comply with the Fire Chief's uniform mandate. Please continue to remain attentive to your appearance because you never get a second chance to make a good first impression.

## **Catching Fire - June 7, 2009**

### **8601 Flower Avenue, Takoma Park**

A full assignment was dispatched to 8601 Flower Avenue, Takoma Park, the morning of June 7th for the report of smoke coming from the roof of a single-family home. Units arrived; confirmed smoke showing from sides A & B, the 2nd and 3rd floors, and requested a RID, TF, and FEI to respond. The structure was determined to be an apartment building with four units. On arrival, investigators were directed to one of the victims/occupants of the apartment. She reported that she had been in bed asleep and was alerted to the fire by a downstairs neighbor banging on her door. While exiting the structure she sustained minor burns to her hands.



## Catching Fire - June 7, 2009

### Chestnut Lodge Goes Up in Flames...

A box alarm was sounded the morning of June 7th for 500 West Montgomery Avenue in Rockville. Arriving units found the main building of the Chestnut Lodge Sanitarium fully engulfed in flames. The on-scene command officers called for a second alarm assignment. Low water pressure on the hydrant grid, tight working spaces, trees, and the constant threat of a building collapse hampered the operation. Shortly after arriving on the scene, the roof, two floors, and the top of the side D wall collapsed, sending debris and flying embers into the sky.

The building had been vacant for over five years and has passed through several owners. The current owner divided the property into 35 lots and is in the process of building single family houses estimated to be priced over one million dollars each. The Sanitarium was to be converted into seven condominiums - each also priced at over a million dollars. The historic Chestnut Lodge building was a total loss and later demolished.



A press conference was held June 8th by County Executive Ike Leggett.

Investigators still hope to find physical evidence that will assist in their investigation to determine the cause and origin.

With schools starting, investigators are reaching out to Rockville High School and Richard Montgomery High School Security staff to seek from returning students possible information (kids bragging). In addition, investigators will ask the principals to make announcements advising rewards for information. The arson tip line is bi-lingual and we hope to stress that avenue for reporting information.





## **Catching Fire - June 7th 6011 Sonoma Road**

Units repounded to a house fire at 6011 Sonoma Road in Company 20's area with a report of a fire in a closet. Engine 720 arrived on the scene and found a coat closet well involved, extending to the living room. The fire was quickly extinguished, limiting further damage to the house.

Investigators determined that the home is occupied by an elderly couple; the man is an avid pipe smoker with a habit of placing his pipe in his pants or jacket pocket after smoking.



## **Catching Fire -May 2, 2009 Castle Boulevard**



# Montgomery County Agricultural Fair ~

Master Firefighter Clark Oliver speaking with the kids from the Children's Center of Damascus.



CERT Members Julie Brooke, Rita Rich, and Patrick Darley working the "booth"



Sparky conversing with one of his many fans.



# Haitian Firefighters Pay MCFRS a visit...

Led by Chief Ardouin Zephirin, thirteen firefighters, from four different towns in Haiti paid a visit to Montgomery County. With Captain Lee Silverman taking the lead, the firefighters' mission included training in CPR and First Aid, Advanced Rope Rescue and Rigging, Advanced Swift Water Rescue, in-water training, Flashover Fire Training, Symtron Fire Simulator training, auto and van fires, tanker and water shuttle training, firefighter combat challenge, and Incident Command.

The training began with an orientation to MCFRS, Beginning CPR, Blood Borne Pathogens, SCBA Fit Test, SCBA, and 2nd level in the maze and hoseline evolutions to include leader line and blitz fire.

A graduation ceremony for the Haitian firefighters was held June 5th at the PSTA, followed by a party at the Haitian Embassy in Washington, D. C., hosted by Raymond A. Joseph, Ambassador to the United States for the Republic of Haiti.



Left,  
Captain Stacey Jones  
teaching hose line  
evolutions



Above,  
Lieutenant Larry Murray  
teaching Swift Water Rescue  
at the Dickerson Training Site

Below,  
reception at the Embassy for the  
Republic of Haiti, Washington,  
D.C., Ambassador Raymond Joseph,  
Chief Ardouiz Zephirin, Chief  
Bowers



Right,  
Captain Steer and Captain  
Lee Silverman in Haiti  
meeting with Commander  
Lambert (Haiti Coast  
Guard, Port-au-Prince)



MCFRS has supported the Republic of Haiti for more than 10 years with retired fire gear, and training provided by the County. Captain Silverman has been to Haiti five times, and Captain Steer, four times. This is the first time Haiti has sent its personnel to MCFRS. This training was a continuation of the training that we provided in Haiti two months earlier.

MCFRS housed the visitors with the assistance of the Gaithersburg-Washington Grove, Rockville, and Germantown Fire Departments at Fire Station 8, 28, 31, and 22. While staying at the stations, the personnel rode on the apparatus, seeing first-hand how MCFRS performs its EMS and fire operations. During the training trip, the firefighters had the pleasure of meeting with County Executive Leggett, Chief Administrative Officer Tim Firestine, and Council President Phil Andrews. They met several times with Fire Chief Richie Bowers.



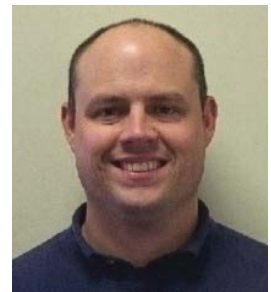
## Everyday Heroes Congratulations to All!



Dispatcher Danny Teets made Channel 4 news Tuesday, June 9th, after successfully providing assistance to a 911 caller for a woman who had gone into labor. Firefighter Teets talked the husband through the delivery until first responders from FS29: FF Steve Kreimer, FF Dan Liester, FF James Ridgely, FF Justin Meyer, and FF Kevin Seek arrived. The family later stopped by ECC to personally thank FF Teets.

Mom, baby, and Dad are doing well.

Special recognition to Lt. John Virnelson (ECC-A) who was recently awarded Communications Supervisor of the Year by the Tri-State 9-1-1 Committee.



Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Chief James Seavey, Sr. was named Volunteer Chief of the Year at the 2009 International Association of Fire Chiefs Conference in Dallas, Texas, Thursday, August 27th.



Lieutenant Scott Herring and Master Firefighter/Rescuer Carl Ritter were presented the Maryland General Assembly Certificate of Distinction, along with a gift card, and a Citation from Congressman Chris Van Hollen at a recognition ceremony given by the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce, August 14th, for their outstanding performance on June 29th after responding to a call for an infant in cardiac arrest.





## Everyday Heroes Congratulations to All!

A Unit Citation was also presented to the crew members of M725 and E725 for their response the morning of June 17 to a 46-year old female jogger who had collapsed at the intersection of Bauer Drive and Trailway Drive and was in cardiac arrest. Executing the basics, the crew defibrillated the patient. She regained a pulse, and the paramedics assisted her breathing while moving her to M725 and transporting her.



Fire Chief Richie Bowers was recognized on August 23rd at the Heritage Christian Church in Silver spring, in the photo below, by the Eagle Awards Association, an organization that is dedicated to recognizing achievements and accomplishments in the community and nationally. Chief Bowers received their 2009 Hope Award in recognition of his contribution to society and for inspiring his generation.



# Everyday Heroes Congratulations to All!

Pictured below and at right, Master Firefighter/Rescuers Cynthia L. Beach and Carl Ritter (not shown), Firefighter/Rescuer II Phil Knowles, and Lieutenant Scott Herring (not shown) were recognized July 14th by the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce (G-GCC) for their actions on June 29th which saved the life of a premature male infant who was in cardiac arrest.

G-GCC recognizes and honors exceptional public safety personnel officials for their courage and commitment in protecting our community and its citizens.



A Fire Chief's Citation was presented to Master Firefighter Cynthia Beach for her heroic actions the evening of June 29th at 1904 hours, when E722 and EMS 703 were called to 19224 Warrior Brook Drive in Germantown for an "infant code." Upon arrival, they found the mother of a premature male infant on the floor attempting to perform CPR. MFR Beach picked up the infant, and after assessing him, found him to be in full cardiac arrest. She gave him several ventilations while moving to the ambulance. During transport, MFR Beach continued CPR with a Bag Mask. After about one minute, she began to feel a pulse and the infant began to breathe.

A Unit Citation was presented to the personnel of E722, A729, and EMS 703 who responded to this incident. Congratulations to Lt. Scott Herring, MFF Carl Ritter, FFII Phil Knowles, FFII Jack Pifer III, FFI Reilly Harbison, and Captain Robert Landry.



Future Firefighter 3 1/2 year old Griffin Glover, son of Firefighter/Rescuer III Doug Glover, starts his afternoon “chores”.

Too Cute!!





## Senior Citizen Summit -

On Friday, June 19, Councilmember Roger Berliner held the second of his “Senior Citizen Safety” Forums at the B-CC Rescue Squad. The focus of this forum was “Seniors Aging in Place,” with speakers providing tips on health and safety. The new national trend for seniors is to remain in the home they have lived in for years. A study of the phenomenon, developed what is now known as the “Villages Concept,” this model program addresses the needs of entire communities where the aging have made the decision to stay in their homes, close to their friends and retaining their ties to their community.

Matt Kelleher, now working as our Senior Citizen Fire Safety Educator, told the audience that, as they age, factors such as potential medication errors, diminishing sensory awareness, and mobility issues make seniors up to three times more likely to be victims of house fires. Fire safety education, as well as the use of new technologies, can keep our seniors safer.



## CERT



On June 11th, Chief Bowers took time to stop by the monthly Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) meeting to say hello, and offer his support to the volunteers in the group. The June CERT meeting also featured utility safety training from Washington Gas, and preparation for the CERT support role at the AT&T Golf Tournament that was held during the July 4th weekend.

# LOSAP

The acronym “LOSAP” stands for “Length of Service Awards Program.” The Montgomery County LOSAP Program is the oldest LOSAP program in the United States, and one of the best. The program provides a financial award as recognition for volunteer service and commitment to the citizens and visitors of Montgomery County, Maryland. To receive LOSAP, a volunteer must provide a minimum of ten years of active volunteer service. Age requirements apply as well. To receive LOSAP with 10 years of active service, a volunteer must reach age 65; at fifteen years of service, age 60; and after 25 years, there is no age requirement. Volunteers may continue to earn small increases each year they maintain active status. Active status is achieved as points are earned and certified each year in the following categories: Training, drills, elected/appointed position, attendance at meetings, incident responses, collateral duty, and military service or leave. Payments range from \$92 to a maximum of \$345 each month. The program provides for a \$5,000 death benefit, and a survivor benefit of 1/2 the monthly award.

For CY 2008, a total of 1,624 volunteer LOSAP certifications were completed. 990 individuals met the requirements to be LOSAP-active (earning 50 points or more), and 634 individuals earned 1-49 points as participating members. Additionally, nominal payments of \$300 or \$500 were made to 846 active volunteers who received payments totaling \$330,600. The higher payments are made to those volunteers who earned the maximum number of points in the sleep-in/stand-by and responses categories.

There are currently 467 LOSAP recipients, including 105 survivors. The total monthly cost of LOSAP payments is approximately \$90,000.

Other volunteer benefits offered to active volunteers include Ride-on bus passes and tuition assistance. For more information on how to apply, please contact the LOSAP Office at 240-777-2428.

## Meet the Face of LOSAP - Kathy Zieger



Kathy lives in Germantown and will relocate to Hagerstown after her retirement on October 1, 2009. Kathy has 30 years experience with Montgomery County, including four years with MCFRS, and ten years with the Office of the County Executive, where she was responsible for recruitment and appointments to Executive-appointed Boards, Committees, and Commissions. She also provided administrative support to the Director of Liquor Control, the County's Health Officer, and the Directors of the Silver Spring and Upcounty Regional Service Centers.

Her interests include reading, traveling, and dancing (ballroom and country). Having survived stage 4 cancer, Kathy also enjoys volunteering for the Bloch Cancer Hotline and participating in cancer fundraisers. Her son, Eric, lives in York, Pennsylvania and daughter, Michelle, lives in Damascus. Michelle is engaged to Andrew Randolph (Station 21). Kathy's immediate plans after retirement include a trip to Italy with her companion, John Best (current and retired MCFRS employee), and participating in other volunteer activities. "Having observed so many people who volunteer significant time with this Department, I think it's my turn to give back to the community in another capacity."

# AT&T Tiger Woods Golf Tournament

Fire Chief Richie Bowers extends his thanks to the entire MCFRS team that provided service during the AT&T National Tiger Woods Foundation Golf Tournament at Congressional Country Club, from June 30th through July 5, 2009. The management team of Chief James Seavey of the CJPVFD, Captain Fred Probst, Captain Mike Glazier, and Lieutenant Corrine Mann of CJPVFD, did an outstanding job managing the MCFRS response during the event, with the assistance of many LFRD, career, and CERT members all working to provide the very best customer service to the country club, the Tiger Woods Foundation, and the most important customer - our citizens. GREAT JOB!!

CERT Members - Ben Koshy and Liz Ducey





# Congratulations to new Volunteer and Career MEDICS!!



We continue congratulating our new providers who are finishing up their internships, so it is with great pride that I present the latest group of ALS providers that have received their credentials just this past 8 weeks, with my thanks to all educators, duty and station officers, preceptors, and the leadership who made this possible.

Todd Spock, EMT-I, comes to us not unlike other EMS volunteers who are night or weekend warriors in the firehouse, and not unlike other young volunteers who catch the emergency services bug early. Todd followed the lead of another Kensington Volunteer Fire Department volunteer we previously congratulated. Todd trained in an intensive, on-line EMT-I program known as Training Division, based in Texas, which sends its students to clinical rotations in the Dallas FD EMS Section 12 hours/day for 6 business weeks. He also did well in the didactic portion of his ALS class. Like his colleague, Todd started young enough to end his training as a very experienced medic at a young age. He is among a new group trying to control Medic 705 on many nights and weekends.

Udana Torian, EMT-P, joins the Emergency Services family as one of a frequent prototype of our Volunteer Fire and Rescue enthusiasts with the tradition of really diverse educational backgrounds. She came to serve the community through our LFRD ALS program. A native of North Carolina, she spent time in a prominent BLS and ALS system after training and obtaining her Paramedic status there. She also went to college and worked in the Research Triangle, where science abounds. On arriving here, Udana served in BLS, then worked on joining the ALS colleagues at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad and preceptor Ruiz.

David Lee, EMT-I, the son of a truck driver, came through the school system in his native Washington, D.C., as a youngster, and graduated from Ballou High School. He then helped his father's business thrive for more than 12 years. He caught our eye, and vice versa, as a veteran trucker wanting to explore and train in the Fire and EMS system. He graduated in MCFRS RC #28, but felt the need to improve his medical skills. He worked hard throughout EMT-I Class #8 with Instructor Leinhauser before Bob's retirement. Among Dave's hallmarks are his perpetual smile and his courtesy to others, which will always complement his studies and skills, serving his patients and our system well.



Kyle Niziolek, EMT-P, came to us after completing his education at the University of Michigan in Cell and Molecular Biology, minoring in Political Science. At age 18, he pursued EMS experience via the BLS training available at the University. While still in college, he pushed forward in the I-85 EMT Specialist Class offered by the University of Michigan Academy of Emergency Services, near Ann Arbor. From college, he was accepted into the Georgetown University School of Medicine, where he is finishing his 2nd year. Meanwhile, he discovered the Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad, and teamed up with preceptor Moles to become their newest medic, while he continues to study medicine.

Elizabeth Marshall, EMT-I, originally from Chicago, moved as teenager here to Montgomery County. She was inspired in the mid-90's by emergency services, so she asked Bobby Landry "way back when" to ride along. Catching that Fire Rescue "bug," she joined Germantown Volunteer Fire Department after taking EMT-B in 1998. What followed was the frequent prototype of former volunteers wishing to make this type of work their careers. Graduating from MCFRS RC #21, Liz wanted to maintain activity in both fire and EMS, but always wished to explore ALS. After the 1+1 program, she was introduced with the goal of allowing medics to enhance fire days. She and many others with similar interests no longer hesitated to commit to ALS training, and she graduated in EMT-I Class # 8.

Brian Gmerek, EMT-I, is one of our growing number of transplants from the heartland of Ohio. His interest was ignited at the age of 18 when he was a lifeguard at King's Island, a park in suburban Cincinnati. EMT colleagues there talked him into EMT training and he took a part-time job at West Chester FD. He then moved onto the Clear Creek Springboro FD in suburban Dayton. FF Hohman, who was a local friend, pointed us out to him and vice versa, and the rest is MCFRS Recruit Class #28 history. After a year, he enrolled in EMT-I Class #6, with Instructors Blake and Touzeau.

Please join us in wishing all of these new, ALS personnel a rewarding experience in Advanced Life Support, and support them in every possible way. You all can take credit for their successes.

## Fire Station 34 - Coming Along



## Southlawn Maintenance Facility

Chief Holzman and staff have successfully transitioned the first of our LFRD shops to the new Southlawn Central Maintenance Facility (CMF).



# Volunteers on the Increase

Between January 1, 2009 and August 1, 2009 the LFRDs below have increased their rolls by 236 IECS members, and several administrative members. These volunteers have been added to PIMS.

Burtonsville	28	Hyattstown	0
BCCRS	53	Hillandale	0
Rockville	59	Takoma Park	3
GWGVFD	6	Laytonsville	5
Germantown	5	Cabin John	16
Sandy Spring	7	Glen Echo	6
Damascus	7	Kensington	17
Silver Spring	18	Upper Mont.	1
Wheaton	5	CERT	60

## Recruiting

Who are we?

The recruiting team is currently comprised of Captain Tommy Foster, Volunteer Recruiter Mike Bowman (civilian), and Manager III, Leslie Maxam (civilian).

What are we up to?

In the past year, the recruitment team has been busy developing and supporting several new programs. Since Mike Bowman was hired in October of 2008, he has been working to support the MCVFRA's VBOC program (Volunteer Basic Orientation Class). From October 2008 to July 2009, Mike served as one of the primary coordinators for this successful program. Throughout this time, VBOC has trained approximately 85 volunteers, assisting them to get their basic classes and requirements completed so they can become active volunteers as quickly as possible. In addition to VBOC, Mike has helped in creating several volunteer marketing brochures and has been meeting the LFRDs to brainstorm ways to increase volunteerism.

Captain Foster has created several new programs, including the "Ride Along Experience," which allows potential employees and volunteers to shadow our personnel and understand what it's really like to be a MCFRS firefighter/rescuer. We hope this program will be offered to churches, community groups, and schools, and that it will help us form closer, trusting relationships with the community we serve. In addition to the Ride Along program, Captain Foster has been instrumental in revising programs for the 2009 Montgomery County Agricultural Fair to make it more interactive in impacting the hundreds of visitors who reach us at that event. Lastly, the Recruitment Team has been busy analyzing our past efforts to ensure we are spending our time and dollars wisely. Results of that analysis have helped us decide to put less emphasis on attending job fairs, which have not yielded many applicants.





Leslie Maxam has been taking the lead on having a new website created for Recruiting. A photo shoot was conducted in October, 2008 which allowed us to create images for a new website, as well as providing images for several new career and volunteer brochures. Currently, these images show our own MCFRS personnel in their operational capacity, and in their street clothes, encouraging candidates to visualize themselves going “From Here to HERO.” The Recruiting Team is also exploring using Facebook, Twitter, and other technologies to spread the word about MCFRS.

### **How Can You Help Us?**

Photo shoots, marketing campaigns, and programs all help recruiting, but the statistics prove that our own personnel are the single best source for bringing qualified candidates to MCFRS. The recruiting team wants all MCFRS personnel to have the facts about volunteering and the hiring process so you can accurately share this information with your friends, peers, and community members. Please see our next issue, where we will give you an overview of the hiring process, and how personnel are selected and moved forward in the process. In the meantime, please contact the Recruitment Office directly at 240-777-2238 or [fire.recruiting@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:fire.recruiting@montgomerycountymd.gov) if you have any questions about the current hiring process or have a volunteer referral.

### **Recruitment Team News**

Along with volunteers and representatives from the MCVFRA, we staffed a booth at the June Maryland State Fireman’s Association Conference in Ocean City. The focus of this outreach was to highlight the tuition assistance available to Montgomery County volunteers.

We are providing 7000 safety and volunteer recruitment brochures to the Germantown, LFRD for their mass mailing. The same volunteer/safety brochure was distributed at the County’s July 4th events.

We took a reduction of one lieutenant effective June 30, 2009, due to reductions in the Department’s operating budget.

We are working with candidates who were given a conditional offer of employment to provide encouragement and support for the upcoming CPAT test. It is very important that females attend the free mentoring which is offered.

Captain Tommy Foster,  
Manager III, Leslie Maxam  
Volunteer Recruiter Mike Bowman



## Blasts from the past ~



# Milestones

## 41 Years of Service

AC Michael Clemens

## 36 Years of Service

BC Robert Stephan  
MFR Patrick McTighe

## 35 Years of Service

BC Michael Hamilton  
MFR Michael Bobrow  
MFR Dale Crown  
MFR Truman Kelley

## 34 Years of Service

Admin. Spec. III Debbie Shaw  
CA Robert Stojinski  
Office Service Coordinator Debi Messett

## 33 Years of Service

CA Earl Clime  
CA Mario Reda  
F3 Kenneth Klejmont  
MFR David Brown

## 32 Years of Service

MFR Joseph Fuller  
DC Michael Love  
CA Jeff Williamson  
BC Wayne Courtney  
CA Donald Deibler  
F3 William Edens  
CA Eric Jacobs  
LT Patrick Mitchell  
F3 Steven Pratt  
MFR Robert Evans  
CA William Lippincott  
MFR Ira Gold  
AC Michael Donahue  
Fire Chief Richard Bowers  
F3 Jeff Bennett  
CA Gregory Socks

## Congratulations to all!

### *Upcoming Events ~*

*September 22 - POTS Luncheon  
October 7th - Walk to School Day  
October 26 - Promotion Ceremony  
November 5-8 - IATF Volunteer and Combination  
Officers Section Conference, Clearwater Beach, Florida  
November 8-12 IATF Redmond  
Symposium, Los Angeles, California*

Background is the New Public Safety Headquarters



# Just for Giggles - The Real Meaning of Titles

## Fire Chief -

- o Leaps the EOB in a single bound
- o More powerful than a locomotive
- o Faster than the Acela train
- o Walks on water at the Rockville Swim Center
- o Discusses policy with God at length

## Division Chief -

- o Leaps the Judicial Center in two bounds
- o Slightly more powerful than a MARC train
- o Just as fast as the Acela train
- o Walks on water if the sea is calm
- o Talks to God; unsure if God's listening

## Assistant Chief -

- o Leaps fire stations with a running start and favorable winds
- o Almost as powerful as a Ride-On bus
- o Faster than a speeding bullet shot from a slingshot
- o Walks on water in an indoor swimming pool (heated)
- o Leaves voicemail for God (unreturned)

## Battalion Chief -

- o Runs into burning buildings, bruising nose
- o Recognizes locomotives (two out of three times)
- o Is not allowed to handle live ammunition
- o Can't stay afloat with a life preserver
- o Talks to animals

## Administrative Assistant

- o Lifts all buildings or walks over them
- o Kicks locomotives off the tracks
- o Catches speeding bullets in his/her teeth
- o Freezes water with a single glance
- o Tells God what to do

# Carlos ~ we will miss you

